



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

**AGENDA**

20 October 2016

City Hall—McCloskey Room

1. Introductions
2. Approval of minutes
3. Public comment
4. Presentation: Adam Wason, Director, Public Works, "Sanitation Modernization Update"
  - Shelby Walker and Adam Wason
  - Public works is responsible for sanitation, animal shelter, parking garages, city facilities, street and traffic
  - Proposal to the Mayor's office about modernizing the sanitation system
  - We have an old system based on 1940s practices
    - Workers at risk, in the elements: hardest job to do in the City, higher worker's comp costs of any department
    - Manually loading solid waste/recycling in the back of the truck is outdated
  - Want to modernize the system to lower cost and improve health and safety
    - Trucks are beyond their lifespan (seven years). We only have five that are less than seven years old.
    - Mechanized tipping system
      - Fully automated system where each household is provided with a container for recycling and one for solid waste
      - By standardizing the containers, a mechanical tipper could pick them up either by a rear loading semi-automatic tipper (needs one worker to drive and one to help the tipper into the back of the truck), or by a side-loading fully-auto tipper (only needs one worker to drive).
  - Advisory committee is put together (met for first time tonight) of 10-11 people
  - City Council approval to purchase capital
  - Current sticker system would go away
    - Would move toward a billing system that would be incorporated into CBU bills
  - Bloomington recycles about 8% higher than the national average, and Sanitation doesn't want to discourage recycling at all with this system
    - A few different sizes of container would be offered
    - Higher charge for more volume
    - 35, 65, 96 gal containers for solid waste
      - A family of 5 could probably manage a 35 gal if they recycle as much as possible
    - Volume-based system is meant to encourage the reduction of solid waste

- In the future, weight-based could be an option
  - For recycling, the largest container (96 gal) would be offered by default to encourage recycling
- They expect to see higher efficiency that would eventually lower general fund support
- From day one, the whole City would have the container-based system
  - Currently, yard waste is picked up in the leafing season for free on recycling day and for a fee during other seasons—through two different systems at a high cost
  - In the future, Sanitation could see us moving to a third container for yard waste and possibly composting
    - Grant funding could allow us to do this up front
  - **Cost: \$6-\$18 a month depending on volume**
  - About 15,000 households are served
  - Sanitation employees work four days a week, 10 hours a day
    - This could change with a more modernized system
    - **Website is: [bloomington.in.gov/sanitationmodernization](http://bloomington.in.gov/sanitationmodernization)**
- Earliest date of implementation could be July 1, 2017, but October 1 is more feasible
- City Council has approved bond funding of \$1.5 million to purchase 30,000+ containers at \$40 a piece
  - Capital recovery fee could be part of the bill
  - 10 year replacement cycle
  - Containers are assigned to a property and will be fashioned with RFID to track or aid in a weight-based system down the line
- Old plastic trash cans would be recycled by the manufacturers of the new containers when they distribute them
- Curbside large item pickup would continue, but might be less often
- Basic service fee may be included, even for customers who only put out a bag a month
- Data will be collected on recycling rates after implementation—it's expected to increase
- Educational component will start soon, 4-6 months before implementation, and each container will have information under the lid to help and inform customers

## 5. Discussion from 2016 working groups (B cycle)

### A cycle

BEAP\*\*

ECPC/Planning Commission

Waste/Hazards

Water

### B cycle

Outreach

BD party

- Still looking at December at the Waldron
  - Either the 200-seater auditorium or the 90-seater, more intimate Fire Bay room for the movie and panel discussion
  - Will probably do the 200-seater on Saturday

Ecoheroes

- Expand Ecoheroes to include an adult category and maybe a senior category
- Might rent the gallery at the Waldron again and have a show that would stay up for awhile
- Would have cash prizes—Sarah and Dedaimia will contact donors
- Should decide on a theme soon and start getting the word out because it takes quilters a long time to quilt
- A proposal was made to expand Ecoheroes to include an adult category
- It passes with 10 yea's and one abstention

BEAP

- Will get 100 printed copies ready for the BD reception

## ECPC/Planning Commission

- Adam's Village on W Tapp near the roundabout on the north side
  - Meant to be commercial since the PUD has been around for about 20 years
  - The proposal is to change the PUD to high residential housing
  - It was supposed to be commercial but now a developer wants to put apartments in, requiring the PUD to be changed by the Council
  - The intent is for the townhouses to be used for working-class families, with 10% being workforce priced housing
  - No good public transit near the area
  - Just outside the floodplain
- Patterson Pointe, corner of W 3<sup>rd</sup> and Patterson
  - Large PUD also, with apartments for seniors and lots of other apartments
  - Bldg 1: Four stories of apartments up, then three stories into the ground for parking
  - Bldg 2, 3, and 4: commercial on the street with apartments above
  - Bldg 5: apartments
  - Good public transit nearby
  - First hearing will just be discussion: need landscape plan, restoration and maintenance plan for the stream, recycling info, etc.
- Secretly Canadian, record label on Bloomfield Rd
  - Looking to expand by buying the property next door, currently Sowder's Landscaping
  - Basically want to build a big warehouse
- BBC building was approved, with two dissents including Nick, since the entire Council expressed concerns
  - Verbally promised to green building practices and that the architect is LEED certified
- Building we liked in CTP, which utilized numerous green building practices, was approved
  - Geared also toward the aging population and people who need public transit, with a large amount of workforce housing with good prices
- Title VI about recycling: current code states recycling has to be put in for apartments of four units or under
  - New code would be *any* multi-family units must have recycling
  - Isabel Piedmont-Smith is heading up the effort
  - Nov 14—meeting about goals and objectives

## Biodiversity Proposal

- Grow Native program to incentivize local nurseries to move away from invasives and toward natives
- Now run by INPAWS
- Reached out to Andy and Ramsay to see if the EC could help in the push
- Offers certification based on how many natives nurseries sell
- Could use tabling to educate the public about the program
- May be problems with the EC enforcing and regulating it

## 6. Old business

- A. Sustainability reporting (letter of support?)  
\*\*\*Skipping\*\*\*

## 7. New business

- A. Graywater proposal
  - Greywater project in Green Acres, but it can't be approved the way it is now
  - So maybe we could go back to the original draft

- BMP, funding, technical expertise, intern research, eventually we could put out a brochure promoting greywater
  - A proposal was made to continue looking into other greywater opportunities
  - It passes unanimously
  - B. CMP: Endorsing the statement of the Commission on Aging
    - Ryan Conway
      - In the process of doing research for CMP on other commissions, he found a good resource from the American Planning Association for developing CMPs
      - The CMP process hasn't been very inviting to public comment, esp. considering best management practices put forth by the resource mentioned above
      - Implementation process isn't very accountable either
      - Requests more time in outlining these processes and re: objective 16 in Imagine Bloomington about food policy (where it's mentioned 26 times) has been ignored in the CMP
      - A proposal is made to add our voices in agreement with Ryan and the Commission on Aging with a letter calling for extending public comment on the CMP, among other things
      - The proposal passes unanimously
  - C. Upcoming meetings (December, January)
    - November: Linda will give a presentation on green building practices
    - December: Mayor will be in attendance, as well as a designer and jewelry maker, no working group reports
    - January: Cooking School for the bucket list meeting
8. Commissioner announcements
- Nick is spearheading an initiative with P&T to allow for safe bike travel across 37/I-69
  - Crosstown Compost—[crosstowncompost.com/](http://crosstowncompost.com/)
9. Adjourn